



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**  
P.O. Box 41100 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1100

August 14, 2020

**TO:** All Interested Parties

**FROM:** Stephen Sinclair, Secretary

**Subject:** Staff COVID-19 Testing at Washington State Penitentiary

Mandatory COVID-19 testing of employees at the Washington State Penitentiary will begin on August 24, 2020.

The test involves the employee self-collecting a nasal specimen to detect active infection. It is not an antibody test and does not reflect the employee's possible immune status from a previous infection. The test is not the more invasive nasopharyngeal swab and employees will be asked to collect the specimen themselves.

To help prevent ongoing transmission at WSP moving forward, staff testing will be repeated every seven days until further notice. This is known as serial testing. The employee will be assigned a day of the week to be tested with make-up days if they are not at work on their assigned day. All initial, serial testing and make-up testing will be self-collected.

Staff members who have previously tested positive and completed their isolation requirements will be required to provide a copy of their lab results to human resources and will be exempt from initial and serial testing.

Corrections is constantly evaluating and assessing its practices given the ever-changing circumstances regarding COVID-19 response, both locally and across our country. The health and safety of staff and incarcerated individuals continues to be our top priority. For the latest information on the department's COVID-19 response, please visit:

<https://doc.wa.gov/corrections/covid-19/default.htm>.

AS/RC:rn

cc: Melena Thomson, Director – Executive Policy Office  
Trisha Newport, Deputy Director – Legislative & Policy  
Nancy Waldo, Labor Relations Manager  
Jeneva Cotton, Deputy Director – Prisons,  
Paige Perkinson, Program Specialist